

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 06309 211719Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 DODE-00 EB-08
/073 W

-----066876 220212Z /66

R 211643Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5419
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6309

UNA FOR TEFFT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, ECIN, SG, GA
SUBJECT: U.S. FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

1. DURING BRIEF VISIT TO BANJUL, HOLLOWAY MET WITH IBRRA DEGUENE KA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, AND OUSMAN OTHMAN, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, IN THE SENEGAMBIA PERMANENT SECRETARIAT. AFTER FIVE YEARS OF DIRECTING THE SECRETARIAT, KA LEAVES NEXT MONTH TO ASSUME NEW DUTIES AS SENEGAL'S AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA. HIS REPLACEMENT HAS NOT BEEN NAMED BUT WILL BE A SENEGALESE NATIONAL. KA FEELS THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAS ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL IN RESOLVING COMMON SENEGAMBIAN PROBLEMS SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND ALSO PROVIDES A USEFUL MODEL FOR CONTINENTAL MOVEMENT TOWARD UNITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY UNDER OAU AUSPICES.

2. KA REVIEWED THE SECRETARIAT'S HISTORY, EMPHASIZING THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND PROMOTING ITS CREATION. ACCORDINGLY, KA SEES THE ORGANIZATION AS A MICROCOSM OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION, THE SMALLEST VIABLE UNIT OF ECONOMIC AND OTHER SECTOR COOPERATION. TWENTY-FOUR PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN SIGNED (AND
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DEPOSITED WITH OAU) BETWEEN THE TWO MEMBER STATES GOVERNING RELATIONS FROM BILINGUAL EDUCATION TO CROP PROTECTION. ADMINISTRATIVELY, A VERY SMALL SECRETARIAT STAFF COORDINATES MINISTERIAL AND AD HOC COMMITTEES MEETINGS ON A YEARLY BASIS AND MONITORS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE NATIONAL MINISTRIES. THE ANNUAL SECRETARIAT BUDGET IS 30 MILLION CFA (ABOUT \$80,000), THREE-QUARTERS

COMING FROM SENEGAL AND THE REMAINING QUARTER FROM THE GAMBIA. THIS COOPERATIVE LEVEL EXTENDS ALSO TO SENEGAMBIAN EXTERNAL RELATIONS WHEREBY AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH COUNTRIES CONSULT ON ISSUES AND OFTEN COORDINATE ON VOTING ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS MATTERS.

3. KA SUMMARIZED THE SECRETARIAT'S ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE LAST DECADE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINK; THE RESOLUTION OF TERRITORIAL AND MARITIME BOUNDARY DISPUTES; AND FINALLY, THE COMPLETION OF THE SENEGAMBIA RIVER BASIN STUDY (1968-1977) WHICH HAS LED TO THE SECRETARIAT'S CREATION OF OMVG (GAMBIA RIVER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY) TO IMPLEMENT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. OMVG ALSO WILL ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF GUINEA (WHERE BAMBIA RIVER HEADWATERS ARISE) WITHOUT ENLARGING THE SENEGAMBIAN ORGANIZATION. OTHER SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE, HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, TOURISM INDUSTRY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES.

4. IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THE TASK OF THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE TO CONSOLIDATE EXISTING PROTOCOLS AND TO MAINTAIN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SENEGAL AND THE GAMBIA. IT IS KA'S VIEW THAT IF THIS UNDERLYING BASE IS ASSURED THEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN MOVE TO WHATEVER STAGES OF COOPERATION THEY SO DESIRE, INCLUDING POLITICAL FEDERATION. BOTH PRESIDENTS JAWARA AND SENGHOR HAVE TAKEN PUBLIC POSITIONS AGAINST POLITICAL INTEGRATION IN ANY FORMAL SENSE, CONFIDENTIAL

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EMPHASIZING INSTEAD THAT INCREASING ECONOMIC INTERCHANGE REPRESENTS A SPIRIT OF POLITICAL COOPERATION AND OF POLITICAL WILL. IN ESSENCE, KA SUGGESTED THAT THE SENEGAMBIA PERMANENT SECRETARIAT COULD BE VIEWED AS A FIRST LINK IN THE CHAIN TOWARD AFRICAN UNITY BECAUSE IT INVOLVES TWO DIFFERING CURRENTS OF AFRICAN CIVILIZATION (TRIBAL & CULTURAL VALUES) AND IT DEMONSTRATES THE STRONG PATTERN OF COOPERATION THAT CAN COME TO EXIST BETWEEN ANGOLOPHONE AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICA. KA CHIDED THE OAU'S FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT A SIMILAR PATH TOWARD AFRICAN UNITY SINCE AS THE CONTINENTAL ORGANIZATION FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT POSSESSES THE EXISTING MACHINERY TO FOSTER SUCH DEVELOPMENT. THE OAU HAS PLACED TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL AND CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WHILE IGNORING ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL MATTERS THAT COULD MORE EASILY BE ADDRESSED AND SHOULD THEREFORE LOOK TO THE SECRETARIAT AS A POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF HOW TO ACHIEVE UNITY. MOVEMENT TOWARD UNITY IS A PROCESS OF CONCENTRICITY, KA STATED, WITH THE SENEGAMBIAN SECRETARIAT BEING THE SMALLEST CIRCLE AND THEREBY AT THE CENTER UPON WHICH OTHER AFRICAN REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS MIGHT BUILD. GALANTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAKAR06309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780342-0266
Format: TEL
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780844/aaaabkcu.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bbe35160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1681749
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA
TAGS: ECON, ECIN, SG, GA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bbe35160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014